I-68 Fog Detections & Warning System

In response to concerns over the May 23, 2003, fog crash from elected officials, emergency responders, and MDOT, the SHA initiated development of a fog detection and warning system.

On Monday, March 7, 2005, the system was activated at two locations on I -68, Big Savage Mountain and Keysers Ridge, and is now undergoing testing and evaluation. Each site is independent and responds to the local measures of visibility.

System components consist of:

- Existing roadway weather information system stations
- Advance warning signs reading- Reduced Visibility Possible When Flashing
- Solar powered LED yellow flashers
- Spread spectrum radio transmitters and receivers
- When visibility conditions (currently below 1000 feet) are detected, a radio signal is transmitted to the advance signs
- The flashers on the warning signs are activated to alert drivers of the possibility of reduced visibility

- At the warning sign locations, electrical power is provided by a solar system to the yellow LED flashers
- When visibility improves, a signal is sent to turn the flashers off

The development and construction of the system was a combined effort between several companies and SHA departments:

Sabra Wang and Associates - Baltimore- engineering study and concept development.

Midasco- Sign erection

Rommel Engineering- Electrical work

SSI- St. Louis Mo. – Visibility detections and system program

SHA Office of Traffic & Safety- System design, sign development and contract management

SHA Division of Communications- Development and installation of spread spectrum radio system equipment.

Cost- $ 210.000

Over the next several months the system operations and effectiveness will be evaluated by the District 6 office and OOTS. The ultimate goals will be to have a positive effect on driver's behavior in low visibility situations in order to reduce the potential for serious crashes.